

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of the pending claims is requested in view of the above amendments and following remarks. Applicants have amended claim 16 by incorporating claim 18 and present new claim 24 which contains all of the limitations of claims 16 and 17. Claims 17 and 18 are cancelled. No new matter has been added.

Claims 16, 19-21, and 23 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,568,663 (Xu et al.). The Office Action also states that claims 17, 18, and 22 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants have amended claim 16 by adding the phrase, "and substantially parallel to", as shown in the claim listing to incorporate claim 18. Applicants respectfully assert this amendment puts the subject matter of claim 18 in condition for allowance in accord with the Office Action. Hence, Applicants respectfully assert that the rejections of claim 16 and claims 19-23, which depend from claim 16, are rendered moot. Applicants courteously request withdrawal of the rejections of claims 16 and 19-23 under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by Xu et al.

Applicants present new independent claim 24 which is claim 17 rewritten to also include all the limitations of claim 16. Applicants respectfully assert new claim 24 puts this subject matter in condition for allowance in accord with the Office Action.

Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's allowance of claims 1, 3-8, and 13-15. Applicants courteously request entry of the amendments presented above and reconsideration and allowance of all claims 1, 3-8, 13-16, and 19-24 pending in the subject application in view of the amendments and remarks presented herein.

It is recognized that with these amendments the number of independent claims in the subject application exceeds the number of independent claims previously paid for by one. Therefore, Fee Transmittal and Credit Card Forms to pay the fee for the one additional independent claim accompany this amendment.

This submission is intended to be a complete response to all grounds of rejection and objection raised in the Office Action. If any grounds for rejection remain after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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